

KENTUCKIANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Kentuckians. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Kentucky. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Kentucky.

INCOME: KENTUCKIANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Kentucky was \$40,315.¹
- In 2005, the median income in Kentucky was \$36,750, a significant drop of 8.8 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN KENTUCKY CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Kentucky had 548,000 adults without insurance (13.7 percent).³
- In 2005, Kentucky had 514,000 adults without insurance (12.7 percent).⁴
- Kentucky had 63,728 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.⁵

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN KENTUCKY

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Kentucky was \$6,921.⁶ In 2005, it was \$9,400, a 36 percent increase.⁷
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Kentucky was \$14,727.⁸ In 2005, it was \$19,262, a 31 percent increase.⁹
- Number of Kentuckians affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 35,720¹⁰
- Number of Kentuckians affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 37,778¹¹

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR KENTUCKY RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Kentucky was \$1.399 a gallon.¹²
- Today the average cost of gas in Kentucky is \$2.160 a gallon.¹³
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Kentucky was \$2,053.¹⁴
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Kentucky is \$3,170, \$1,117 (54.4 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁵

SOCIAL SECURITY: KENTUCKIANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Kentucky – 784,910¹⁶
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Kentucky – \$806¹⁷

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: KENTUCKIANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Kentuckians killed in Iraq – 44¹⁸
- Number of Kentuckians wounded in Iraq – 347¹⁹
- Number of Kentuckians killed in Afghanistan – 3²⁰
- Number of Kentuckians wounded in Afghanistan – 12²¹
- Number of Veterans in Kentucky – 359,845²²

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING KENTUCKY'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 231 estates in Kentucky paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²³
- Only 45 estates in Kentucky will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁴
- In contrast, 133,000 workers in Kentucky would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁵

CRIME: FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING DISAPPEARING

- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – \$7,072,009²⁶
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – \$3,258,858²⁷

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST KENTUCKIANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Kentuckians.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Kentucky residents each received an average of \$2,050 in tax cuts, while middle class Kentucky residents received only \$362.²⁸
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Kentucky residents will receive an average of - \$25,837 in tax cuts, while middle class Kentucky residents will only receive \$679.²⁹
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Kentucky residents will each receive an average of \$50,114 in tax cuts, while middle class Kentucky residents will only receive \$785.³⁰

The richest Kentuckians receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Kentuckians received 5.4 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 19.0 percent of the tax cut.³¹
- But, in 2006, the richest Kentuckians will get 22.7 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.9 percent of the tax cut.³²
- And, in 2010, the richest Kentuckians will get 40.5 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 12.7 percent of the tax cut.³³

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Kentuckians.

- In 2010, the richest Kentuckians will receive an average of \$7,202 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Kentuckians will be getting over 47.5 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁴
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Kentuckians will receive an average of \$36 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 4.7 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁵

SOURCES

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